
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #14

Sitka.... The aerial survey conducted on March 26 covered Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Krestof Sound. Weather during this flight was poor with 20 knot winds and snow squalls. No herring were spotted from the air and approximately 7.0 nautical miles (nm) of herring spawn was observed on Kruzof Island (Figure 1). The large concentrations of herring predators appeared to have dispersed. The vessel survey conducted by the *R/V Kestrel* showed several schools in Promisila and Eastern bays area. Schools of herring were also located from Big Gavanski Island to the Siginaka Islands.

Today's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound from Redoubt Bay to Salisbury Sound. Weather during the flight was poor with 20 knot winds, low clouds, and rain. Herring schools were spotted in Eastern Bay and a small area of spawn (less than ¼ mile) was seen in Eastern Bay as well. Herring predators were scattered between Shoals Point and Eastern Bay with no significant concentrations located. The vessel survey conducted by the *R/V Kestrel* showed schools of fish in the deeper waters east of Middle and Big Gavanski islands. Additionally, several schools of fish were located south of Sitka, but no large biomass was found.

Harvest from the fishery conducted on March 25, was approximately 2,400 tons and on March 26, approximately 400 tons were harvested.

The cumulative spawn mileage for 2018 is 7.4 nautical miles.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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Figure 1.– Sitka Sound herring spawn for March 26, 2018.